

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful review of this application. Claims 6-16 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1-5 and 17-32 were pending in this application. Claims 1 and 17 have been allowed. Claims 3-5, 23-24 and 29-32 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-5 and 17-32 are pending in this application.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) for various informalities. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the drawings because the drawings were not legible.

Amended Figures are included with this paper at appendix A.

Withdrawal of the drawing objections is respectfully requested.

Specification

The examiner reminded that any cross reference to related application should be listed on the first paragraph of the specification. Further, the examiner reminded to include the application number for those incorporated references. The specification has been amended accordingly.

Withdrawal of the specification objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 29 and 30 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, Claim 29 was indefinite because the claim was dependent upon itself. Claim 30 was inherently rejected because it depended on Claim 29. Claims 29 and 30 have been amended accordingly.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 2 and 18-21 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over allowed Claims 11 and 18-21 respectively of U.S. Patent application 09989487.

Claims 22, 25, 26 and 27 were provisionally rejected as being unpatentable over Claim 7, 13, 14 and 15 respectively of copending Application No. 09989580.

The applicant respectfully submits that the double patenting rejection is premature as neither of the cited applications has been allowed as a patent.

Objected Claims

Claims 3-5, 23-24, 28 and 31-32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 3-5, 23-24, 28 and 31-32 have been amended accordingly and are now in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are now allowable. The applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance be issued at the earliest possible date.

The amendment was made to expedite the prosecution of this application. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of the amended claims and reserves the right to re-introduce them and claims of an equivalent scope in a continuation application.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel at the number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: November 22, 2005

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